

fairs press so forcibly for a speedy and effectual exertion of
 both houses for the common safety, and think this urgency
 has been an inducement to put us in the perplexing situation
 in which we now stand. Hopes may have been entertained,
 that our resolution would not support us, in risking an act,
 upon which our lives and every thing valuable may possibly
 depend, to preserve our happy constitution, and follow the
 dictates of our best judgment. But, gentlemen, however
 embarrassing this situation may be, and however unexpected
 the stroke may have come from you, we are open and free
 to assure you, that all hopes grounded on this supposition are
 delusive, as we are fixed and resolved, at every hazard, not
 to yield to the degrading drudgery of giving an assent, from
 fear of consequences, to acts which we think unjust and ru-
 inous to the state, whatever present necessity may be pleaded
 or plausible surmises made. At the same time we declare to
 you, that we most sincerely and earnestly desire to do every
 thing which may be necessary to carry on and support the
 present war to the last extremity, or to final success, and no-
 thing would give us such heart-felt satisfaction, as to have
 an opportunity of passing a bill for complying with the re-
 commendation of congress in the most effectual manner.
 We therefore pray you to send us your bill without the ex-
 ceptionable clause, which though we think liable to some
 objections, yet will be serviceable and we will immediately
 pass it. As to the propositions made in your message, and
 promise to revise at the next session the tender law, upon the
 principles of universal justice, we may observe, that howe-
 ver inclinable you may be to comply with this promise, it
 may not be in your power, as your house is now very thin,
 and the absent members may not hold themselves bound to
 give up their sentiments to the opinions of the members pre-
 sent; besides the exception is as broad as the engagement:
 therefore the latter amounts to nothing, when considered and
 compared with the exceptions. A revision of the tender law
 might have been entered on early in the session, when we
 had time to consider that important subject; we were in
 hopes it would have been done, and we sent you a bill,
 which, if passed, would have given an opportunity to go
 through a perfect revision and application of the rule of just-
 ice; and if the anxiety of gentlemen to return home to their
 necessary